

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0086

National Register Eligibility Status
Property is Historic (50 years or older)

**Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

Accomack

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National Register Eligibility Information

Historic Context(s): Military/Defense

Historic Time Period(s):..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

Significance Statement: This one-story building was built in 1953 as the Test Cell Annex. It appears as such on the 1953 "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by the U.S. Navy. It has also been used by the Department of the Army as a gun-testing laboratory and currently serves as offices and educational space for the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) Visitor Information Center. The building is located on the east side of VA Route 175, to the east of the WFF main base. It is located at the south end of the Visitors Information Center area, at the base of a gentle slope that then levels out toward the tidal marsh and creek to the east.

This building is an example of a secondary Military/Defense property type that gained importance in the New Dominion (1945 – present) period and was one of several buildings and structures built on CNAAS in the early 1950s. Established in 1943, CNAAS was used as a training base for Navy aircraft carrier squadrons that would be serving in the Pacific theater of World War II, and to enable Civil Air Patrol to conduct antisubmarine operations off the Atlantic coast. In 1946, the U.S. Navy expanded the mission of CNAAS to include the Naval Air Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS). By 1949, the U.S. Navy discontinued aircraft carrier training and in 1951 CNAAS became a Naval Air Facility, with a primarily research-based mission that corresponded with the mission of NAOTS until the base was closed in 1959. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station.

The Vic. Exhibit Display Area Building has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

The resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D. It is not associated with any event or individual significant at the local, state or national level; it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; nor does this property have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory.

The resource has lost its integrity due to alterations to the resource and its setting. The resource's integrity of materials, design, and workmanship has been adversely affected by additions, the replacement of the building's doors and windows, and the introduction of modern corrugated metal panels that cover the walls and roof. Although remaining in its historic location, the building's integrity of setting, feeling, and association has been adversely affected by the functional and physical changes made to the surrounding setting of the base of which it was a part; by 2004, the majority of buildings of this period have been demolished, changing the historic character of the physical environment of the building's historic context.

Bibliographic Documentation

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DHR Id#: 001-0027-0086

Reference #: 1

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: Giffels and Valet

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

Reference #: 2

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: U.S. Navy

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

Reference #: 3

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: U.S. Navy

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21531	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 30-33

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

CRM Event # 1,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey

Date: 2004/07/99

Organization or Person: URS Corporation

CRM Event Notes or Comments: 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878